



**ANNUAL REPORT FOR JAPAN TRUST FUND
THE THIRD PHASE
*(Covering 2024 Activities including Approved Projects for 2025)***

JTF-AR-2025
20 July 2025

Participating Countries and the Secretariat

Table of Contents

I. Background	3
II. Administration	4
III. Progress of Ongoing Projects from Previous Years.....	4
Annex 1	15
• Summary of JTF Work Plan for 2025	
Annex 2	19
• Brief Reports of Completed JTF Projects in 2024 and 2025	
Annex 3	26
• Solomon Islands Progress Update of Electronic Monitoring (EM) Activities Funded Under the Japan Trust Fund of the WCPFC	

Annual Report for Japan Trust Fund

The Fourth Phase

(Covering ongoing 2024 project activities including approved projects for 2025)

July 2025

Notation

- “The Project”: The WCPFC Project on Capacity Building in Fisheries Statistics, Regulation and Enforcement for Small Island Developing States
 - ✓ Phase 1 Program (2006 – 2011)
 - ✓ Phase 2 Program (2012 – 2018)
 - ✓ Phase 3 Program (2019 – 2023)
 - ✓ Phase 4 Program (2024 – 2028)
- “Five-year Program”: Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 Program
- “projects”: Member’s research activities funded by the Project as annually selected under the Five-Year Program

I. Background

In December 2005, the Government of Japan informed the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) of its intention to provide an extra-budgetary contribution to the WCPFC for the purpose of assisting the developing state Members’ capacity-building on fisheries statistics, regulation and enforcement. This resulted in a 5-year project entitled the “WCPFC Project on Capacity Building in Fisheries Statistics, Regulation and Enforcement for Small Island Developing States (the Project)” to be funded by the Government of Japan. The target recipient States of the Project are mainly SIDS Members of the WCPFC. The first 5-year Phase 1 Program was completed in 2011. Given the success of the Project, the Fisheries Agency of Japan sought and successfully secured a budget for the Phase 2 Program for the next five (5) years, commencing 2012. The objectives and terms of reference for the Phase 2 Program were similar to, but built on the previous Program, with an emphasis on enforcement and compliance. The Phase 2 Program was extended on an annual basis to include 2017 and 2018.

In 2018, the Fisheries Agency of Japan, in recognition of the usefulness of the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) for capacity building in fisheries statistics, regulation and enforcement for SIDS and the SIDS desire to continue this cooperation scheme, successfully secured further funding for the Phase 3 Program. The Phase 3 Program is the same as the previous two Programs in principle, but with an emphasis on new fisheries management procedures, including harvest strategy, and new monitoring technology-related projects with a belief that the projects supported by the Phase 3 Program should be more advanced than those of the previous Programs. The current Phase 4 Program is built on the previous phase program.

This report includes details of the projects delivered over the previous years; presents the selected proposals for implementation in 2025; and the 2024 ongoing projects including their associated administrative issues.

II. Administration

The 2024 JTF project was coordinated and administered by the WCPFC Secretariat in cooperation with Japan (Mr Haruo Tominaga, Mr. Shinji Hiruma, and Mr Mashide Kannuo International Affairs Division, Fisheries Agency of Japan).

The selection of the 2025 projects to be funded by the JTF among several proposals submitted by the WCPFC Members was administered by Japan in collaboration with the JTF advisory group, comprising the WCPFC Secretariat, the Pacific Community - Oceanic Fisheries Program (Dr. Graham Pilling), the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO).

The total JTF for 2025 is USD 156,566. The 2025 JTF was slightly reduced compared to 2024 due to depreciation in the currency exchange rate of Japanese Yen which resulted in budget reduction in terms of US dollars. After the deduction of the 7.5% administrative fee of USD 11,742.45, the balance available for 2025 projects is around USD 144,823.55.

The *Call for Proposals of the Japan Trust Fund for 2025* was sent out on 31st of October 2024 (WCPFC Circular 2024/82) and another circular (WCPFC Circular 2024/94) was sent on 23rd December 2024 to extend the deadline to 31st January 2025. Four (4) proposals were received. Due to the limited budget for 2025 JTF, prioritization of the project proposals was done and was based on the objectives of the JTF and the evaluation of the JTF Steering Committee. A Summary of the JTF Work Plan for 2025 is in **Annex 1**.

All JTF-funded project summaries since 2012 are compiled in one document [Japan Trust Fund Summary of Projects. 2012 to Date](#) posted on the WCPFC website (under Key Documents/Implementation of Article 30 of the Convention). Brief reports of completed JTF projects in 2024 and early 2025 are in **Annex 2**.

III. Progress of Ongoing Projects from Previous Years

1) Project #1 (2019, Phase 3 Program): Development of National Competent Authority [HACCP strategy] for [Cook Islands Offshore Fisheries](#)

A. Overview

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) is a system that was developed for assuring pathogen- free foods. The Cook Islands have made significant legislative changes in recent years to meet competent authority requirements. With significant changes being made to fisheries management frameworks and demands for responsible fishing nations to implement complementary Competent Authority (CA) regimes, it is timely that the Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) undertakes an exercise to review its CA capabilities and determine how effective and responsive they are to meet the needs of its regulatory framework.

A review of all relevant legislation and policies, documenting CA needs and gaps – in accordance with international, regional and national law – comparing current CA programs and their effectiveness in response to management needs is required.

B. Objectives

To undertake a comprehensive review of MMR's offshore fisheries Competent Authority programs.

C. Proposed Work

- MoU – Develop and finalise a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health (MoH) and MMR to provide legal powers to MMR as a CA
- HACCP Strategy – Development of a national HACCP strategy
- Implementation plan – Development of an implementation plan for the HACCP strategy, including completion of Part 2 training
- Regulations – Develop and finalise regulations, standards, policies and a CA Checklist
- Calendar - Finalise Competent Authority training and implementation
- Awareness – Create awareness and education information packs for stakeholders and the general public on CA requirements, standards and legislation etc.
- Consultation – Hold consultations with stake holders and the general public on CA work
- Inspections – undertake inspections to train fisheries officers on HACCP CA requirements

D. Project Update

The Cook Islands thanked Japan for their support and informed the Steering Committee in August 2023 that project activities had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While most of the work remains ongoing, the original target of completion by January 2024 has since been revised.

The project lead retired in late 2023, and recruitment challenges have further impacted progress. Access to technical assistance has also been delayed due to high regional demand for these services. As a result, consultants based in New Zealand are now supporting the completion of this work. The FFA continues to offer assistance for the successful delivery of this project. Further updates will follow in due course.

E. Budget and Fund Balance

Details	Amount
Funds Received	NZD 94,406 (USD 74,500)
Funds Utilized	NZD 31,235.92
Balance	NZD 61,170.16

F. Challenges faced

- Limited staffing capacity and competing priorities
- Retirement of project lead in late 2023 and ongoing recruitment challenges
- Delays in securing regional technical assistance due to high demand

G. Way forward

Project activities are ongoing, with support from New Zealand-based consultants and FFA. The Secretariat will continue to coordinate with the Cook Islands and will update this report as further information becomes available.

2) Project #2 (2019, Phase 3 Program): Improving the participation and engagement in international fisheries forums (Cook Islands)

A. Overview

As part of its capacity building and succession planning initiatives, Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) will be implementing a series of training sessions to engage and prepare staff to participate in regional fisheries meetings. This proposal complements other initiatives MMR is undertaking to support professional development, including working with other Ministries training programs such as diplomatic protocols and negotiation, to ensure staff is adequately trained before venturing into international meetings to represent the Cook Islands.

The Ministry of Marine Resources (MMR) was granted project funds in 2019 for the **Improving the participation and engagement in international fisheries forums project**.

MMR is the lead agency for the management of marine resources in the Cook Islands. This includes representation in several regional fisheries management organisations (RFMO) in the Pacific.

The project is focused on the Pacific region and the legal instruments, governance, procedures and protocols, and structure of RFOs and RFMOs that feed into the work of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

MMR's approach was to divide the project into two components:

- a) creation of the training model and materials and subsequently
- b) delivery of training by either electronic means or if the situation allows, through the preferred face-to-face delivery mode.

During 2020 and 2021, the international border closures due to COVID-19 prevented the project from being completed by an expert to create training content and then deliver it to cohorts of trainees.

Through the government procurement process, an expert was identified to develop the training materials. A training manual of nine modules was created backed up by a series of PowerPoint presentations, video clips, and selected reading materials. A quiz was positioned at the end of each module to test the trainee's understanding of the subject

material.

The training was carried out for two cohorts of trainees over two weeks in December 2022. The training was not accredited, and participants did not have their quiz papers scored separately. Professor Chris Wold of the International Environmental Law Project, Lewis and Clark Law School, Oregon, United States developed the training materials in consultation with MMR and then delivered the training in person.

B. Proposed Work

Training modules will include:

- International fisheries arrangements – hard and soft law
- Regional fisheries management organizations and regional fisheries organizations in the Pacific
- Governance, structure and procedural engagement
- Relationships between Pacific regional fisheries organizations and WCPFC
- Decision-making processes and implementation requirements
- Project – specific research topic relating to Pacific engagement in RFMOs / international fisheries arrangements

C. Objectives

1. To develop the professional capacity of MMR staff, and related agencies, to ensure the effective participation of the Cook Islands in international fisheries meetings, in particular the WCPFC.
2. To utilize and enhance the existing training material to continue to provide the training to more Cook Islands participants. The enhanced training course will be made available in self-paced learning mode via an online platform.

D. Project Update

In December 2022, the Cook Islands reported that core project activities had been completed, including the development of a 9-module training manual, study guides, quizzes, PowerPoint presentations, and supplementary reading materials. Training was delivered in-person to two cohorts during a single expert-led visit to Rarotonga. While successful, some elements were delivered at a reduced capacity due to travel and availability constraints.

Savings of approximately NZD 22,515 from the original NZD 92,406 budget were requested to be redirected towards updating and digitizing the materials, including production of training videos. The proposal was approved by Japan and formally endorsed by the Committee.

During the August 2023 Steering Committee, it was reported that the project remained ongoing under the approved extension until December 2023.

Following this, the project lead retired in late 2023, creating recruitment challenges and delaying progress. Some training materials required updating, and the production of

training videos—covering the nine modules—is now planned to begin shortly. Completion is currently expected by December 2024. Further updates will follow in due course.

Japan acknowledged the challenges faced and emphasized the importance of regular progress updates, particularly regarding changes to the project timeline.

E. Budget and Fund Balance

Details	Amount
Funds Received	NZD 92,406 (USD 62,886.10)
Funds Utilized	NZD 69,891
Balance	NZD 22,515*

* The balance was from the original project which was completed. The said balance was then requested to be redirected towards updating and digitizing the materials, including production of training videos. The proposal was approved by Japan and formally endorsed by the Committee.

F. Challenges faced

- Limited staffing capacity and competing priorities
- Retirement of project lead and ongoing recruitment challenges

G. Way forward

The Cook Islands had planned to complete updates to the training materials and production of video content for the nine modules by December 2024. The Secretariat has requested an update on progress and will revise this report when additional information becomes available.

3) Project #1 (2023): Development of Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring (ER/EM) Program for the Division of Oceanic Fisheries of the Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment (Palau)

A. Project Objectives

1. To assess and develop a fisheries electronic reporting and electronic monitoring program for information gathering and sharing.
2. To address known gaps in data collection in the longline fishery and enhance the capacity of fisheries personnel on proper methods of data collection through ER/EM.
3. To work in line with the newly amended and adopted WCPFC CMM 2013-05 on Catch and Effort Reporting, CMM 2014-03 on Standards, Specifications and Procedures for the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, FFA's Regional LL EM objectives, and Palau's Blue Prosperity Plan to improve the availability and Accessibility of quality-assured information for scientific and compliance purposes and contribute to improving economic viability of longline fisheries.

B. Results and Discussions or Status of the Project

1. To seek and engage in widespread consultation with all relevant stakeholders regarding the design, development, and implementation of ER/EM Program.

After the two training courses and workshop conducted, Palau have gathered some information to start the development of the ER/EM program. Our legal counsel has been tasked to use this information to start drafting the operation procedures for ER and EM. When Palau gather more information from other stakeholders Palau would be able to provide the information to be included in the operation procedures. Since the whole Ministry has only one legal counsel, Palau is still in the process of completing these operational procedures.

2. **To work to streamline a number of agreements, rules and regulations, to be inline and consistent across the Bureau and with national, regional, and international obligations and laws.**

On December 14-15, 2023 the Bureau of Fisheries conducted a two-day workshop for the two relevant fishing company in Palau, representatives from Marine Law, Bureau of transportation, and OneReef. This workshop covered the obligations and law the fishing companies need to follow, and introduced new fishing obligations (EF/EM) to them and sought their thoughts on how the government and growing local fishing companies can work together to start implementing ER/EM.

3. **To conduct workshop and training for relevant Fisheries Officers on data collection procedures or methods on ER/EM**

On September 18-22, 2023, the Bureau of Fisheries had an In-Country training/workshop. Two personnel from the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNAO) flew to Palau to conduct this training/workshop. There were two parts to this 5-day workshop/training. The first part was a closed training session for the public and open to relevant Fisheries Officers. The second part of the meeting was open to the two locally owned commercial longline fishing companies in Palau. Palau setup relevant training modules for the company to use for ER and introduce the concept of ER/EM to them.

Palau reported that activities under this project remain in progress. The Secretariat will await further updates from Palau as implementation continues and will reflect any new information in subsequent reports.

C. Budget and Fund Balance

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	USD 45,500.00
Funds Utilized	USD 20,000.00
In-Kind Contribution <i>(if any)</i>	(USD 92,000 * 44%) = USD 40,480
Other Funding Source/s <i>(if any)</i>	NA

Palau has expressed its intention to allocate the remaining project balance towards supporting the ongoing development of electronic monitoring (EM) and electronic

reporting (ER) operational procedures, as well as to further contribute to the newly proposed ER/EM Program under the Division of Oceanic Fisheries. The Secretariat has been following up with Palau since April 2025 and is awaiting an official response. Based on the information available, it is understood that Palau proposes to utilize the remaining funds to continue supporting future initiatives related to the ER/EM Program. This section will be updated upon receipt of confirmation and additional details.

D. Comments/Conclusions/Feedback/Suggestions/Recommendations

Palau finds it to be very costly for small local longline fishing companies and foreign based longline fishing fleets to carry the burden of Electronic Monitoring implementation, the cost of equipment and installation can be very high. Palau is also seeking to have options of having observers on board the fishing vessels by 2025 while Palau will slowly implement Electronic Monitoring.

The Japan Trust Fund does help the Small Island Developing States develop their fishing industry and Palau is very grateful for the funding opportunities.

4) Project #2 (2023): Training of Solomon Islands Fisheries Compliance Officers in Honiara and Noro on the use of Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) Compliance Module to create, record and manage non-compliance cases and incidences electronically and the training of the Industries Officers and the Fishing Vessels Captains on the use of iFIMs new eForms (Transshipment and Unloading) to record, send and manage catch data electronically.

A. Project Objectives

1. To train our Compliance Officers on the FIMS Compliance module to;
 - Receive GEN 3 reports from the Observers
 - Create new Incidences based on GEN 3 reports
 - Create new Cases based on Incidences created from GEN 3 reports from Observers
 - Update cases, upload documents and evidence to the Cases management module in FIMS
 - Change cases status based on the progresses, depending on the progress of the case, either, start investigation, start interviewing, court hearing, or fined and settled and complete
2. To train the Fishing Companies on how to use the FIMS Transshipment and the Unloading modules to record, report and manage catch data as well as viewing status of cases in FIMS.

B. Project Update

The following are the recent official updates received from Solomon Islands regarding the implementation of FIMS-related activities: The funding for the planned activities was received in late October 2023, which caused delays to the original implementation schedule. Training of MCS officers in Noro on the FIMS Compliance Module was subsequently conducted in November 2023 (see attached report for further details). Due to competing priorities for the Honiara-based MCS officers throughout 2024, their training could not be carried out as initially planned. Solomon Islands has now proposed to conduct the training for the Honiara MCS officers and the Offshore Division on FIMS, as well as provide additional on-site EM technical support, in June and July 2025.

C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	USD 34,965.00
Funds Utilized	USD 20,000.00
In-Kind Contribution (<i>if any</i>)	
Other Funding Source/s (<i>if any</i>)	NA

5) Project #3 (2023): Training of the Longline Fishing Companies Technical people on the basic Electronic Monitoring (EM) Systems troubleshooting processes and support to the Ministry's technical officers to travel down to Noro port to fix failed EM systems.

A. Project Objectives

- To train the Fishing companies technical officers on how to:
 - Inspect and check for hardware and software faults and errors
 - Remove and replace full hard drives in port when vessels arrive back in port
 - Shut down and start EM systems to try and hard reset EM systems
 - Reset systems by pressing the reset button
 - Check to see if dates and positional data are up to date
 - Report faults and errors to the Ministry and plan for EM team to travel down to Noro to fix any serious faults and errors
- To travel to Noro once every 2 months (6 times to Noro) this year 2023 to fix hardware and software faults; the faults to be fix when traveling to Noro include but not limited to:
 - Fix fault hardware
 - Remove and replace hardware spare parts including; cameras, antennas, cables, screen/server and UPS
 - Install software upgrades
 - Install updates

B. Project Update

The following are the recent official updates received from Solomon Islands regarding their EM activities: The Ministry utilized its special imprest funds to implement the planned technical trainings, with the understanding that these costs would be reimbursed

to the imprest account once project funds were received. This arrangement allowed the Ministry to proceed with scheduled travel to Noro to provide technical support to EM-equipped vessels unloading there, despite delays in external fund disbursement.

The implementation timeline was extended to July 2024 to accommodate these delays, and the Ministry formally sought approval to carry forward the remaining funding support accordingly. The Ministry also prepared progress and financial updates, outlining the activities implemented during the year and the remaining funds to be carried forward to July 2024. The delay in receiving funds necessitated the Ministry's proactive use of its own resources to maintain progress on the planned activities.

An on-site technical support training for industry stakeholders in Noro was conducted in November 2023, followed by a technical support mission in January 2024. The final technical support mission was scheduled for June/July 2025.

C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	USD 24,675.00
Funds Utilized	USD 12,300.00
In-Kind Contribution <i>(if any)</i>	None
Other Funding Source/s <i>(if any)</i>	N/A

6) Project #2 (2022): Support to Solomon Islands National Electronic Monitoring (EM) Policy Consultations, Drafting and Launching

A. Project Objective

To provide financial support for Solomon Islands National Longline EM Policy Internal and external Consultations with the Industries and stakeholders.

B. Project Update

The following are the recent official updates received from Solomon Islands regarding their Longline EM Policy: The project experienced delays due to the late receipt of funding in October 2023, despite the original completion target being set for 2023. By that time, the Ministry had already completed all internal and external consultations with stakeholders and was awaiting management feedback on the draft EM Policy before proceeding to printing and launching by the end of the year. A final stakeholder consultation was initially planned for September 2023, with printing and launching scheduled for October or November 2023.

However, the Ministry was unable to finalize and launch the draft EM Policy in 2023 as planned. A final consultation with industry stakeholders and management was rescheduled, with the aim of obtaining executive management approval of the final draft before proceeding to printing and launching in June 2024.

The project timeline was subsequently extended further into 2025. A final review of the EM Policy was conducted in March 2025, and a cleaner version of the policy was circulated to executive management for final review. The launching of the EM Policy is now planned for June/July 2025.

Attached are detailed reports from each consultation workshop conducted since 2022.

C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	USD 48,247.50
Funds Utilized	USD 35,000.00
In-Kind Contribution (<i>if any</i>)	None
Other Funding Source/s (<i>if any</i>)	NA

7) Project #3 (2024): Enhancing Capacity and Strengthening Samoa National Observer Program (Samoa)

A. Project Objectives

1. Expand the observer program to include certified observers from the public.
2. To Identify and train an individual for the role of a debriefer and Develop and implement standardized debriefing procedures.
3. Create SOPs for various aspects of observer tasks, ensuring consistency and compliance.
4. Formulate a comprehensive emergency action plan to guide observers in crisis situations.
5. Develop a Fisheries Observer Policy tailored to Samoa's context and in line with ROP requirements.

B. Project Update

Samoa reported delays in the implementation of their project due to internal issues and processes, and requested the extension of the project to 2025. They are not currently a member of the Regional Observer Program (ROP). The Secretariat has requested Samoa's bank details, but Samoa is withholding them until their internal issues are resolved, which is expected to happen within the first quarter of 2025 (January to March). The issue has been escalated to the CEO, and the Policy and Finance teams are now involved.

An in-country workshop with regional partners is scheduled for March to proceed with the project activities. Samoa has requested to extend the project until the end of 2025 to fully utilize the approved budget. There is no impact on the overall project plan, and the primary objective remains to join the Regional Observer Program and have an Observer Policy in place.

Samoa expressed appreciation for the approved funding and reaffirmed its commitment to completing the project and achieving its goals within the year.

C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Allocated	USD 33,000.00
Funds Utilized	
In-Kind Contribution <i>(if any)</i>	
Other Funding Source/s <i>(if any)</i>	
Balance	

8) Project #4 (2024): Supplementing the continued Electronic Reporting and Electronic Monitoring (ER/EM) Program for the Division of Oceanic Fisheries of the Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment (Palau)

A. Project Objectives

1. Palau's local fishing company will be compliant with national regulations, WCPFC CMM 2013-05 on Catch and Effort Reporting, CMM 2014-03 on Standards, Specifications and Procedures for WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels, and FFA's Regional LL EM objectives.
2. Identify types of Electronic Monitoring systems that are suitable and cost-effective for Palau's local fishing industry.
3. Palau's local fishing industries have a fully functioning ER/EM system in place.

B. Project Update

Palau requested the extension of the project to 2025. At this time, no further details have been made available, but more information will be provided once it becomes accessible. We will continue to monitor the progress and share updates as soon as they are received.

C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Allocated	USD 53,500.00
Funds Utilized	
In-Kind Contribution <i>(if any)</i>	
Other Funding Source/s <i>(if any)</i>	
Balance	

Annex 1. Summary of JTF Work Plan for 2025 (Year 2, Phase 4 Program)

#	Beneficiary Member(s)	Contacts	Project Title	Objectives	Budget (USD)
1	Philippines	Suzette Barcoma Email: suzettebarcoma@gmail.com	Introduction of Biodegradable Fish Aggregating Devices (BioFADs) Using Bamboo Raft and Abaca Ropes in the Philippines	The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of utilizing natural abaca rope and bamboo raft as biodegradable alternatives for drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (dFADs) in tuna fisheries.	50,000.00
2	Tonga	Dr. Sione Vailala Matoto CEO for Fisheries Email: ceo@tongafish.gov.to ; vailalam@yahoo.com Mr. Martin Finau, Head of Fisheries Science Division Email: martin.finau@tongafish.gov.to Ms. Lavinia Vaipuna, Head of Offshore Section Email: lavinia.vaipuna@tongafish.gov.to ; nia.vaipuna@gmail.com	Support and maintain high level data collection and to improve management of tuna fisheries in Tonga, as well as providing timely feedback through monitoring programs on conservation of tuna Species (<i>Port Sampling</i>)	1. To fund tuna data collection (port sampling) over one full calendar year (2025) in Tonga. 2. To fund artisanal tuna data collection over one full calendar year (2025) in Tonga. 3. To empower staff capacity to enable collection of data and enter it into the database. 4. To conduct E-Reporting training for all new tuna vessel masters, port samplers, and artisanal data officers. 5. That the excess amount from each month (when the estimated	44,279.00

				number of vessels not reach the target which means less than 20 unloading duties on tuna vessels per month) will be available to improve management and provide awareness of data collection. 6. To enhance the capacity of fisheries personnel on data management and reporting by attending the annual Tuna Data Workshop at SPC Noumea.	
3	Tonga	<p>Dr Sione Vailala Matoto, CEO for Fisheries Email: vailalam@yahoo.com</p> <p>Mele To'a 'Atuekaho, Deputy CEO, Compliance Division Email: meletoaatuekaho@gmail.com</p> <p>Kalo Manuopangai, Observer Coordinator Email: kmanuopangai@gmail.com</p>	Capacity building in, and strengthening of, Tonga national observer programme & to conduct Basic Observer Longline Training for Tonga Observer Programme 2025	This project seeks to strengthen Tonga's national observer programme by: 1. Building capacity of senior observers, who are also certified debriefers and creating a career path for these observers by utilizing them whilst on-shore to screen, debrief and enter observer data into the regional observer	25,625.00

				<p>database called TUFMAN 2.</p> <p>2. Building capacity of Tonga's national observers by encouraging and promoting quality observer data as well as creating a performance-based incentive in order to keep observers on the job.</p> <p>3. Conduct 3 weeks (15 working days) Longline Observer Training for new observer recruitment.</p>	
4	Fiji	<p>Meli Raicebe</p> <p>Email: raicebe.meli@gmail.com</p>	Enhancing Fiji's Fisheries Data Collection and Compliance with WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures	<p>1. To Train and build the technical capacities of Observers and Enforcement officers to effectively monitor and report fishing activities.</p> <p>2. To enhance collaboration between line agencies and the industry to address operational and</p>	24,919.55 ¹

¹ The total requested budget was USD 39,850.00; due to the shortfall of the JTF budget JTF will finance JTF = USD 24,919.55 and the remaining balance to the SRF= USD 14,930.45

				regulatory challenges.	
	Sub-total			Sum of project budget requested	144,823.55
	WCPFC	Aaron Nighswander aaron.nighswander@wcpfc.int	7.5% administrative fee	Overhead	11,742.45
	JTF 2025				156,566.00
	Grand Total			Total JTF for 2025	156,566.00

Annex 2. Brief Reports of Completed JTF Project/s in 2024 and 2025

Project #1 (2024): Development of a Register of Fishing Rights and a Catch Estimation and Visualisation Tool to enable zone-based management of South Pacific albacore by the South Pacific Group

A. Project Objectives

1. Develop the system specifications through consultation with SPG, FFA, and SPC.
2. Develop the Register of Fishing Rights and the Catch Estimation and Visualisation Tool in consultation with SPG, FFA, and SPC.
3. Test, demonstrate the system, and train parties on use of the system.

B. Results and Discussions

This project has two components. The first component is the Register of Fishing Rights (RFR) and the second is the Catch Estimation and Visualization Tool (CEVT).

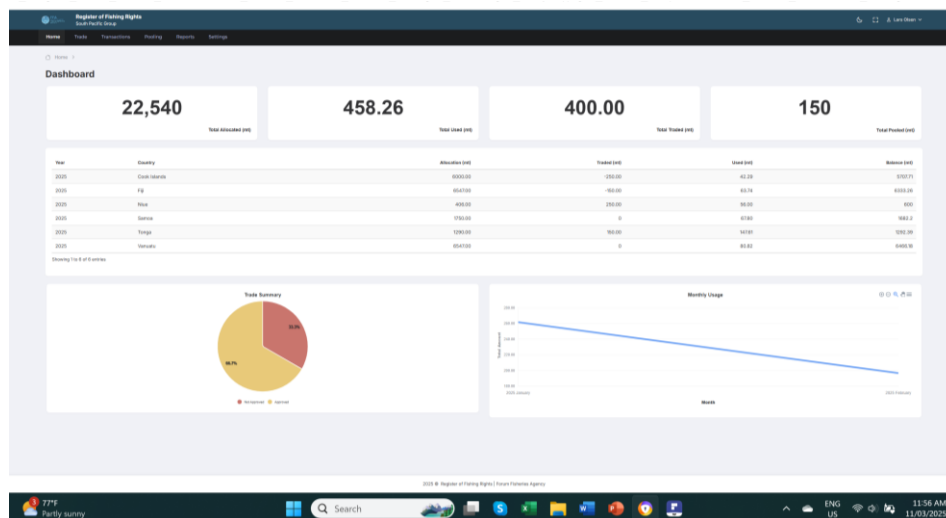
The CEVT has so far been developed internally by SPC and as such, has not incurred any direct dollar costs. There may come a time for this, but currently it looks like SPC is committed to resourcing this CEVT work internally. As such, SPG will not have spent all the grant money allocated from JTF.

The specifications for the RFR were developed by SPG in the lead up to a Request for Proposal being advertised by FFA on 22 October 2024. The specifications for the RFR are based on the needs described in the SPG DRAFT Zone-Based Management Agreement (ZBMA). The ZBMA is not yet ratified by the SPG countries. This will be done when South Pacific Albacore (SPA) allocations and harvest strategy are complete, yielding a TAC for SPA.

Ten companies tendered for this work and the FFA RFR Tender Panel met on 19 December 2024 to evaluate, score and chose the winning bid. The FFA tender evaluation process was followed for this. The work was awarded to TraSeable Solutions Pte Ltd, based in Suva, Fiji on 9 January 2025 by FFA. A project inception meeting was held virtually on 13 January 2025 to start the development process. TraSeable Solutions then developed a design prototype for initial feedback, which they presented to the SPG Technical Adviser (TA) and FFA on 14 February 2025. Feedback was provided, which allowed TraSeable Solutions to commence developing the RFR. Another meeting was held with TraSeable Solutions, FFA, and SPC on 26 February to work out how the CEVT will feed data into the RFR. Various API and transfer solutions were discussed.

The final draft version of the RFR was presented to the SPG virtually by TraSeable Solutions at the SPG meeting held on 3 March 2025. Final comments and questions were discussed. Next steps for this process are for nominated SPG members to receive “sign-ins” for the RFR so they can experiment with the system nationally. This is due to occur during the week of 10 March 2025.

If no additional comments or questions are received, the RFR will be published in its final version and will be hosted on a FFA server. Below is a screen shot of the main dashboard of the RFR. Note that the data contained in the screen shot is “dummy data” and not actual numbers or transactions.



The project has (nearly) achieved the expected outcome for the RFR. The RFR will be an easy-to-use and functional system that will enable the SPG ZBMA to be implemented. The RFR will serve as the agreed ledger for allocations and usage during the fishing year.

There were unfortunately a few delays in getting the RFR developed, some due to the time needed for SPG to finalise the specifications and some due to time in the FFA process. In the future, some of these delays could be reduced with earlier engagement from the group and the FFA. The CEVT is not yet completed, but so far hasn't incurred any financial costs. Work with SPC continues, and it is hoped that the CEVT will be complete and operational by mid-2025. This will then be able to be linked to the RFR. Once linked, the two systems can be trailed by the SPG in the lead up to when the implement their ZBMA.

C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	50,000.00
Funds Utilized	21,300.00
In-Kind Contribution (<i>if any</i>)	Unspecified from SPC
Other Funding Source/s (<i>if any</i>)	

D. Fund Balance

The fund balance of USD 28,700 will be transferred/returned to JTF.

E. Comments/Conclusions/Feedback/Suggestions/Recommendations

The SPG is very thankful for the grant money received from the Japan Trust Fund. We think the JTF is a great initiative and are pleased to see it contribute to zone-based management of South Pacific Albacore for the SPG countries. If further funding for the development of either the RFR or the CEVT is required in the future, it is hoped that we might be able to come back to the JTF to apply for funding for this work.

Project #2 (2024): Support and maintain high level data collection and to improve management of tuna fisheries in Tonga, as well as providing timely feedback through monitoring programs on conservation of tuna Species (*Port Sampling*)

A. Project Objectives

1. To fund tuna data collection (port sampling) over one full calendar year (2024) in Tonga
2. To fund artisanal tuna data collection over one full calendar year (2024) in Tonga.
3. To empower staff capacity to enable collection of data and enter into database.
4. To conduct E-Reporting training of all new tuna vessel masters, port samplers and artisanal data officers.
5. That the excess amount from each month (when estimated number of vessels not reach target which means less than 20 unloading duties on tuna vessels per month) will be available to improve management and provide awareness of data collection.
6. To enhance the capacity of fisheries personnel on data management and reporting by attending the annual Tuna Data Workshop at SPC Noumea.

B. Results and Discussions

Key Achievements:

Port Sampling

- Fishing Fleet Overview: In 2024, 5 domestic tuna vessels and 7 foreign fishing vessels operated in Tonga's waters.
- Logsheet Coverage: Maintained a 100% logsheet coverage for the entire year, ensuring complete data capture for tuna fishing activities.
- Port Sampling Sessions: A total of 146 trips were made, and port sampling sessions were successfully conducted.

Tuna Artisanal data collection

- Island Groups Coverage: The project facilitated the expansion of tuna artisanal data collection to cover all island groups of Tonga, which is critical for understanding regional fishing activities.
- Logsheets Collected: A total of 620 logsheets were submitted as part of the Tuna Artisanal Data Collection Programme across various island groups:

Island Groups	No. of Submissions
Eua	459
Ha'apai	61
Niua Toputapu	20
Niua Toputapu	14
Vava'u	66
Grand Total	620

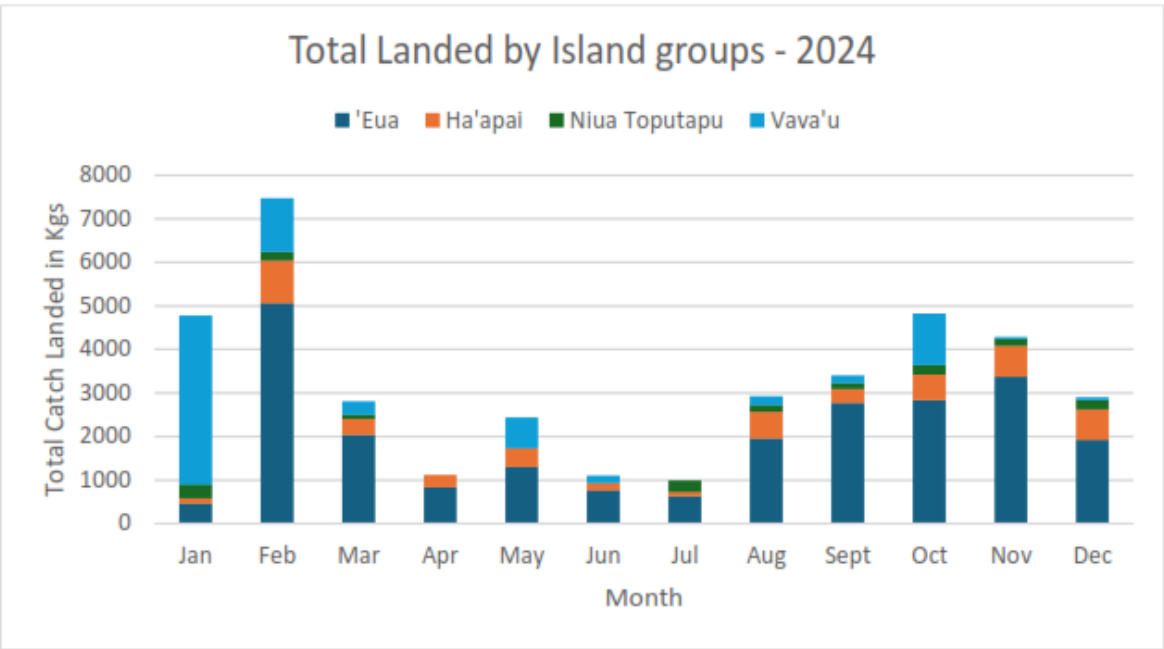
Staff Capacity Building

- Data Monitors: Five daily-paid data monitors were supported, to strengthen tuna data collection efforts across Tonga. These monitors were strategically deployed across Tonga's island groups, ensuring localized data collection and maximizing coverage.
- Data Collection Responsibilities: Data monitors collected key data on tuna catch, fishing effort, and other relevant parameters, strengthening the grassroots-level data collection efforts.

Electronic Reporting Capacity Building Training

- A refresher TAILS training session was held in Ha’apai in June 2024.
- An in-house ER training was conducted, focusing on Onshore Applications data entry and submission for CKMR (Close Kin Mark Recapture) data collection.
- A second refresher TAILS training took place in Vava’u in December 2024.

Data from the project-funded data monitors contributed significantly to the overall tuna catch data, enhancing the understanding of artisanal fisheries in Tonga.



Electronic Reporting

The project has made substantial progress in maintaining electronic reporting throughout 2024, which has streamlined data collection processes and improved reporting accuracy. The total number of logsheets submitted by different system sources is as follows:

E-Reporting Apps	System Source	
	ER	Manual

Onboard	118	25
Onshore	204	43
TAILS	613	7
Olo	28	23
Total	963	98

Eighteenth Tuna Data workshop:

The project funded the participation of one additional representative from Tonga at the 18th Tuna Data Workshop held in Noumea in 2024, contributing to the country's capacity-building efforts and knowledge exchange.

Challenges

Despite significant progress, the project encountered a few challenges:

- **Staff Turnover:** Staff turnover remains a challenge, requiring constant training and onboarding of new personnel, including port samplers, data monitors, and vessel captains.
- **Tablet Compatibility:** Some tablets used for electronic reporting became outdated and are no longer compatible with the latest application versions, hindering reporting efficiency.
- **New Vessels:** The influx of new vessels in Tonga's waters necessitates additional training and system integration to ensure continuous and accurate reporting.

Way forward

To maintain and build upon the successes of 2024, the following steps are recommended:

- **Continued Investment in Training:** Ongoing investment in staff training and capacity building is crucial, especially for electronic reporting and data collection methodologies in order to maintain the high level data collection in Tonga.
- **Strengthening Data-Driven Decision Making:** Greater emphasis will be placed on using electronic reporting data to guide evidence-based decision-making for sustainable fisheries management.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Continued engagement with local fishers, vessel operators, and other stakeholders will be essential for ensuring the success of data collection activities and maintaining awareness of the project.

C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	46,508.00
Funds Utilized	Port Sampling Fees: USD10,110.00 Daily data Monitors wages, Capacity building Training: Electronic Training: USD32,125.00 Participation in the 18 th Tuna Data workshop: USD4,273.00 Total utilized: USD46,508.00
In-Kind Contribution (<i>if any</i>)	Vehicle Tablets for e- Reporting,

	Trainers Facility
Other Funding Source/s (if any)	

D. Fund Balance

The funds were fully utilized

E. Comments/Conclusions/Feedback/Suggestions/Recommendations

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) for their unwavering support throughout 2024. Their funding has been pivotal in ensuring the continuation and expansion of tuna data collection activities in Tonga. The project's success highlights the importance of sustained collaboration, and we look forward to further strengthening this partnership in the coming years.

We recommend continued focus on training, upgrading electronic tools, and engaging stakeholders to further enhance sustainable fisheries management. Furthermore, addressing challenges related to staff turnover and technological updates will ensure the project remains effective and efficient.

TAILS data collection in 'Eua



TAILS data Collection in Niua Toputapu



Annex 3. Solomon Islands Progress Update of Electronic Monitoring (EM) Activities Funded Under the Japan Trust Fund of the WCPFC

- 1) **Project #2 (2023): Training of Solomon Islands Fisheries Compliance Officers in Honiara and Noro on the use of Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS) Compliance Module to create, record and manage non-compliance cases and incidences electronically and the training of the Industries Officers and the Fishing Vessels Captains on the use of iFIMs new eForms (Transshipment and Unloading) to record, send and manage catch data electronically.**

A. Project Objectives

1. To train our Compliance Officers on the FIMS Compliance module to;
 - Receive GEN 3 reports from the Observers
 - Create new Incidences based on GEN 3 reports
 - Create new Cases based on Incidences created from GEN 3 reports from Observers
 - Update cases, upload documents and evidence to the Cases management module in FIMS
 - Change cases status based on the progresses, depending on the progress of the case, either, start investigation, start interviewing, court hearing, or fined and settled and complete
2. To train the Fishing Companies on how to use the FIMS Transshipment and the Unloading modules to record, report and manage catch data as well as viewing status of cases in FIMS.

B. Results and Discussions

The funds was finally received in late October 2023 and the training of our MCS Officers in Noro on the FIMS Compliance Module was conducted in November 2023, see attached report for more details on this training, the training of our MCS officers in Honiara and the whole offshore division on FIMS will be conducted in June and July 2025.

C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	USD 34,965.00
Funds Utilized	USD20,000
In-Kind Contribution <i>(if any)</i>	NA
Other Funding Source/s <i>(if any)</i>	NA
Balance	USD14,965

D. Fund Balance

The left-over funds are for the Honiara based MCS Officers training that will be conducted in June and July 2025.

E. Comments/Conclusions/Feedback/Suggestions/Recommendations

The funding was received late in October 2023 so we were behind our implementation schedule, we actually started the training of our MCS officers in Noro in November 2023, and the Honiara MCS officers were really busy in 2024 so we were not able to conduct their training, we now proposed another EM onsite technical support for June and July 2025.

2) Project #3 (2023): Training of the Longline Fishing Companies Technical people on the basic Electronic Monitoring (EM) Systems troubleshooting processes and support to the Ministry's technical officers to travel down to Noro port to fix failed EM systems.

A. Project Objectives

1. To train the Fishing companies technical officers on how to:
 - Inspect and check for hardware and software faults and errors
 - Remove and replace full hard drives in port when vessels arrive back in port
 - Shut down and start EM systems to try and hard reset EM systems
 - Reset systems by pressing the reset button
 - Check to see if dates and positional data are up to date
 - Report faults and errors to the Ministry and plan for EM team to travel down to Noro to fix any serious faults and errors
2. To travel to Noro this year 2023, 2024 and 2025 to fix hardware and software faults; the faults to be fix when traveling to Noro include but not limited to:
 - Fix fault hardware
 - Remove and replace hardware spare parts including; cameras, antennas, cables, screen/server and UPS
 - Install software upgrades
 - Install updates

B. Results and Discussions or Status of the Project

Same arrangement as above, the Ministry will use its special imprest funds to conduct these technical trainings and then when the funds is received, these costs will be reimbursed to the special imprest account, thus our schedule travel down to Noro to provide technical support to our EM vessels unloading in Noro.

You will note from our schedule above that our schedule is extended to July 2024, thus we seek your approval to carry forward this funding support to next year July 2024, we will provide update reports for the activities that we will implement this year and the remaining funding that we will carry forward for next year July 2024, also you will note that his delay is due to the delay of receiving funds, thus the Ministry takes proactive steps by funding some of these activities while waiting for these funding.

We already conducted an onsite technical support training for the Industries in Noro in November last year 2023, and we had a technical support trip in January 20th 2024 and will be having final technical support trip in June/July 2025.

C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	USD 24,675.00
Funds Utilized	USD12,300
In-Kind Contribution (if any)	Non
Other Funding Source/s (if any)	NA
Balance	USD12, 375

D. Fund Balance

The available balance is for the rest of the onsite technical support trips for this year 2025 June and July.

E. Comments/Conclusions/Feedback/Suggestions/Recommendations

We continue to thank Japan Trust Fund for their support that help us develop our EM Policy to this date.

3) Project #2 (2022): Support to Solomon Islands National Electronic Monitoring (EM) Policy Consultations, Drafting and Launching

A. Project Objective

To provide financial support for Solomon Islands National Longline EM Policy Internal and external Consultations with the Industries and stakeholders.

B. Results and Discussions or Status of the Project

The challenge we faced was when we received the funding late in October 2023, however the project was proposed to be completed in year (2023), we already completed all our internal and external consultations with the stakeholders, we only left with feedback from the management on the draft EM policy and then we can go for printing and launching before end of this year. We are planning to have a final consultation with the stakeholders to finally look through the draft policy on September, and then go printing and launching on October or November 2023.

We were not able to finalize and launch our draft EM policy last year 2023, we will have the final consultation with the Industries and the management before end of this year and we should have our final draft for the executive management to approve before we go for printing and launching in June 2024.

The project was pushed forward to 2025 and we already conducted a final review of the EM Policy in March 2025 and a cleaner copy of the Policy is already circulated to the executive management for final review before we go for launching in June and July 2025.

See attached reports from each consultations workshop since 2022 for more details.

C. Budget

Details	Amount (in USD)
Funds Received	USD 48,247.50
Funds Utilized	USD35,000
In-Kind Contribution <i>(if any)</i>	None
Other Funding Source/s <i>(if any)</i>	NA
Balance	USD13,247

D. Fund Balance

The balance of USD13,247.50 is for the final consultations, printing and launching in June and July.

E. Comments/Conclusions/Feedback/Suggestions/Recommendations

We continue to thank Japan Trust Fund for their support that help us develop our EM Policy to this date.



Electronic Monitoring Policy Consultation Workshop

11th – 13th October 2022

Heritage Park Hotel

Honiara

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
1.1. Opening Remarks.....	2
2. Setting the scene:.....	2
2.1 Discussions and questions after introduction presentation from EM Coordinator.	4
2.2 Activity: How do we address the FFA regional policy at the national level?	4
3. Presentation on Regional Policy and the MOU.....	5
3.1 Activity 2	6
4. Outline skeleton Framework of the Policy.....	7
5. Closing Remarks	7
Annex 1- Consultation program.....	8
SI National EM Policy Consultation Workshops.....	8
Annex 2- Solomon Islands National EM LL Policy Presentation.....	10
Annex 3- EM Policy Skeleton.....	11
Annex 4- Participants Attendance	12
.....	12

1. Introduction

A three days' consultation workshop was conducted on the 11th to 13th October at the Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara. The consultation was held purposely as an internal consultation comprising of the section heads of the Offshore Division (Management, Licensing, Statistics and Information, Compliance, Observers, Electronic Reporting and Monitoring) and Electronic Monitoring-EM policy working committee from within the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) as participants in this workshop. The consultation was facilitated by Chief Fisheries Officer eRM, Mr. Derrick Tagosia and with support from Policy Team in particular Chief Fisheries Officer Mr. Allan Aba.

The outcome of the consultation workshop would assist EM working group and Policy Team to draft an EM policy document. The main outcomes will be based on issues, opinions, views and recommendations raised during the discussions.

1.1. Opening Remarks

The Director for Fisheries, Mr. Edward Honiwala, on behalf of the MFMR Executive Management welcome all participants to the workshop. Highlighting the importance of EM development in the country as one of the flagship programs and for us as one of those EM implementing Countries in the FFA region utilising this as one of the National Monitoring, Control and surveillance (MCS) tools to support the work of MCS and therefore recommend the importance to have a Policy in place.

In the MFMR Corporate plan 2020-2023, under goal 3 one of its activities is to develop an EM policy. The importance of EM in the country is to provide additional complementary tool that is being integrated to the existing suite of FFA member country fishery monitoring systems. It is intended to strengthen the availability of quality data and information from fisheries that have historically supported low levels of monitoring.

The Long Line -LL fishery for the past years has not really achieve its 5% observer coverage. So to address that, Solomon Islands carry out a trial EM with support from South Pacific Community- SPC in 2014. The outcome resulted in Staff recruited for the EM Program, a building dedicated for EM work, recruitment of EM analysts and a current contract with Satlink for the EM system.

The director also highlighted that Solomon Islands apart from Australia and New Zealand in the Pacific Region is one of the leading country to implement EM program. It is fitting that a Policy is in place to provide guidance, consistency, accountability, efficiency, and clarity on how the country desire the EM program to develop now and into the future.

2. Setting the scene:

Mr Tagosia expresses the following points in his presentation;

1. The Regional EM Policy sets the baseline for the development of the national EM policy. There are applicable areas in the regional policy that will be captured in the national policy and these areas will be further expanded to accommodate EM issues at the national level.
2. To reflect obligations under the Western and Central Pacific Commission-WCPFC for 5% observers' coverage on LL vessels. That is to cater for LL vessels with harsh conditions

that is not conducive for human observers to board. In the case for Solomon Islands since there is 80 licensed LL fishing vessel making 4 trips in a year which results to 320 total trips in a year, the observer coverage would only cover 16 trips therefore, a total of 304 trips are not monitored by observers. In this scenario it depicts that there could be high chances of IUU activities taking place within these unmonitored trips. Hence, the EM complements the observer program. The challenges encountered and lessons learned from EM progress so far is that, although EM monitoring is on board for 24 hours and 7 days a week, EM analysts were unable to collect and analyse biological data and gender (Sex) on Fish for SPC data like human observer's does.

3. The role of EM analyst compliments human observers' coverage and capture data on IUU activities, fish handlines and operations, verifies and validates fishing activities (discards, target species, species of special interest (SSI) and bycatches).
4. EM operation was first carried out on a trial basis in 2014. In the trial period there were 4 LL vessels that were installed with EM systems, where there were 2 trips done by each vessels which results to a total of 8 trips that were analysed. The report from this trial program was funded by Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and was published in the SPC website. Furthermore, in year 2017 to 2018 further trials continue whereby another 8 LL Fishing vessels has been installed with EM systems on board. From these installation 30 trips were analysed and a case study was presented. The case study recorded that target species were carefully recorded than by catches in the captain's report. with the EM systems on board analysts were able to analyse discards and to spot this misreporting. With no EM legal framework in place to guide misreporting identified by the analysts, captains and vessel owners always get away with these kind of issues and relating ones.
5. The Cost recovery model is a way forward to the long term sustainability of the EM program and its implementation. However, the impact of increased fees on operators/agents must be considered seriously When working on the cost recovery model so us not to suppress the LL fishing operations in the Solomon Islands waters.
6. The EM system is a standalone package system owned by Satlink company. Upgrading this system to be compatible with other systems will be sole responsibility of Satlink. No upgrade has been carried ever since.
7. Data ownership issues includes;
 - a. Multi-zone sharing agreement for data collected in the EEZ of another country by SI LL flagged vessels with EM system on board.
 - b. Sharing data (footage) with companies who owned LL vessels and the process for requesting data from MFMR.
 - c. Companies requesting MFMR EM analyst to analyse data upon request.
8. At the regional level a proposed to set standards for installing EM systems on-board vessels. Setting standards that would support current vessel inspection operations carried out by License section. EM systems are install on small LL vessels than on larger LL vessels, this is due to conditions of smaller size LL vessels not conducive for observers to board.
9. EM operation is governed by two documents, the annual EM MOU and the MFMR Fisheries Policy statement.

10. The EM analyst operation is on 24 hours and 7 days a week. This compliments observer's duties on board and improve system sensor on board.
11. The formation of the Policy will guide the EM on a set of directions that the Ministry will embarked on for EM operations.

2.1 Discussions and questions after introduction presentation from EM Coordinator.

- a) Director Mr Edward Honiwala highlighted that IUU activities like under reporting occurs even with vessels who have valid Fishing Licence. This is shown in the case study carried during the trial EM operations in 2014, indicating the differences in catch reports captured by captains and catch report analyses carried out by EM analysts.
- b) A suggestion raised during discussion when selecting vessels to install EM is to effectively verify with FFA Compliance Index Reporting for non-compliance index and the person of interest.
- c) It was further highlighted that the main focus on EM was for monitoring people and activities conducted on board fishing vessels.

2.2 Activity: How do we address the FFA regional policy at the national level?

For group activity one, participants were grouped into 3 main groups to discuss three question. The questions were developed to guide participants to deliberate on the key question "How do we address the FFA regional Policy at the national level?" These three questions were "what is missing in the regional framework, are we able to address what's missing and do we have the capabilities/what do we need". Each group were given the opportunity to present their points from activity one. All points taken were then summarized into these 3 questions below.

Summarised outcomes from Activity 1

How do we address the FFA regional policy at the national level?

- a) Already have in place a EM data centre & EM Analysts.
- b) Low risk (20% of total sets) (Medium Risk (50% total sets) High risk (80% total sets).
- c) To analyse sets for Local flagged LL Vessels in high seas.
- d) No agreement in place for data access and ownership with other member countries e.g. Fiji and SOP for requesting Data/viewing footage and reporting infringements with compliance team. Analysing of MSC activities on boarding, transshipment and Unloading. Data sharing agreement.
- e) Data Security and Confidentiality. EM records and EM data management.
- f) No standard criteria to select Vessels to install EM systems on board. Standards still in discussions and to be covered in our national legislations.
- g) Company responsible to reinstall EM or ship EM System back to Solomon. (installation period Oct-March first quarter)
- h) Our activities are aligned with the regional policy; however, we will scope it down to the National level (SI context).
- i) Use of different technical support
- j) Needs standard guideline for which Fishing vessels to be installed with EM systems.
- k) Continue to engage EM Analyst & DOS (have an existing budget to meet this cost) OFD management with CFO eRM are continuing with the negotiation and how this could be covered for as a recurrent activity that have recurrent budget.
- l) EM records and EM data ownership and access (need policy to guide this part or make reference to IP Act).
- m) EM Records and EM data security and confidentially (need administrative support)
- n) Compliance audits (still need work to be done) once there is standards agreed and set then we can reflect into our National Policy)
- o) To have a full cost budget support for EM Systems support and maintenance.
- p) Integrity of EM systems to be included into our national legislation.
- q) Training capacity building needs continuous budget support.
- r) Financial considerations to be reviewed of need increase or decrease.

If not are we able to address them?

- a) Financing
- b) Debriefing
- c) Policy
- d) Data Security protocols

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) Legal framework for implementation where statistic & where is EM? f) To accommodate in the structure g) The gaps that has been identified we are working on addressing them by having legal framework to support the effectiveness implementation of this EM work.
<p><i>What capabilities do we have and what do we need?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Establish Analysts positions into Public Service b) Cost Recovery Model c) EM Data fields to be recognized at the Commission level d) Training – capacity building. e) Having the right resources (human, financial capacity) to address these gaps such as continue in this work to completely develop EM legal documents.

3. Presentation on Regional Policy and the MOU

Presenting the FFA regional EM policy Mr Tagosia highlighted following points;

1. As adopted at the regional level EM analysis rate is at 20% for vessels operating in national waters but not landing catch on domestic market. But, to address vessels with IUU history unloading in Honiara, a new analysis rate at 80% will be implemented in its sets. But, on the other hand, this will also increase sets for EM analysts to analyse.
2. Another opportunity will be to recruit debriefers, a similar operation to Observers debriefing program. The role of debriefers are to verify sets analyse by EM analysts and check data accuracy and quality.
3. An issue experienced at the region is, EM systems install on LL vessels will continue to record fishing activity even in EEZ of other countries. This raise the question on who owns data captured in other countries EEZ. A suggestion was raised that there should be a mechanism set regionally for countries to access and share these data.
4. The process for reporting a non-compliance issue nationally or regionally is still a gap. In a circumstance that an EM analyst finds an IUU issue in a footage, measures to carry out compliance or procedure to address is a legal gap.
5. Recommendation on setting some criteria in place nationally, a guide for installing EM systems on vessels must be developed.
6. In Solomon Islands -SI, the country is experiencing low number of LL vessels requesting Licence as more vessels are venturing out into the High seas. This is cause by request by SI to install EM on LL vessels, a recommendation from discussions was for the WCPFC to consider this trend and set appropriate CMMs in place with support to EM systems and its impact on fishing in SI. A way forward could be to increase cost recovery fees.
7. Data security is an important component for E-Port and Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement-NTSA. With EM Policy, which governance regime will be responsible for Data security. Some security measures to be in place includes, storage of data, accessibility, confidentiality and restrictions on access to EM office building.
8. Statistic section is one of the important unit in the Offshore division. Accommodating EM data with existing statistic section is still not clear.
9. The type of data that are being analysed by EM analysts includes, catch, bycatch, discards, floats-hooks but with limitation to sets of species and its gender. The challenge is that, a clearly indication in the MOU, that infringements analyse cannot be used to support or report to compliance.
- 10.

11. SPC- has a working committee for all data.

EM, Observer and Captain- complete collection of Data. To monitor observer's performance on board vessels

3.1 Activity 2

For this activity facilitators use the GAP analysis matrix, coordinated by Allan Aba. Participants break into 3 groups to discuss points highlighted in activity and to further discussion possible solutions to address issues identified in group 1. Listed and summarised in table below are points taken during group presentations.

Detailed below are summarised points from group discussions.

Gaps identified	Possible solutions & Details for SOP/Regulations.
Financing and Resourcing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EM system and maintenance (full budget cost for this activity) - Continue to engage EM Analyst & DOS (have an existing budget to meet this cost) OFD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Include EM analysts and budget in SIG established structure so that recurrent budget can cover all activities of EM program b) Securing funding to maintain operations of EM operation from development partners (PROPER/MISSIF/SIG DB regionally) c) Retrieving the EM fee of USD \$4000 from the main Budget is a way forward to support EM operations.
Training and capacity building Need continuous budget support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Debriefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue effort to have budget to support the EM program in terms of training and capacity building. b) Organise MOU with service provider c) Train current analyst to do debriefing
Data security protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EM records and EM Data security and confidentiality (need administrative support) - EM Records transmission - EM Records and EM data management - EM Records and EM Data ownership and access (need policy to guide this part or make reference to IP Act) - EM Records and EM Data storage - Data sharing agreement and ownership with other member countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Liaise with ICT SU to have storage in the server to take care of the data. Process to be inserted in the Policy. b) Authorised access to EM office and assets c) Tampering of EM assets on vessels or onshore by crews and officers. d) Develop national legislation for data security for data security of the EM data. e) Develop SOPs for the request and use of EM data internally and externally. f) Authorised access to analyse EM data g) Develop national legislation to guide the ownership/IP and level of access to the EM data. h) Cost recovery to support this program. i) Draw up data sharing agreement or IMS policy to cover data for E-port and EM. j) MOU with FFA partners that implement EM system
Policy & Legal Frameworks for implementation & standards in discussions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) National Fisheries Law and regulations to cover all implementation. b) Power of EM Officers to board fishing vessels to install and remove EM cameras
EM System, Fishing Vessels installed with EM systems and Data review centres. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standards still in discussions - Compliance audits (still need work to be done) once there are standards agreed and set then we can reflect into our national policy - Setting of time period for installing EM systems and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Advocate strongly on the regional and national level b) Develop national legislations to reflect specified standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needs a standard guideline for which FVs to be installed with EM systems. - Develop legislations for EM installations considering the CI rating of each licensed FVs. <p>Collaborate with FFA for compliance audits on the national EM program. Captured in access agreement/ requirement for vessels to install EM Systems or to retrieve systems that are no longer operational. Develop SOP for retrieving EM systems.</p>

reinstalment of EM systems.	
Coverage and analysis rates - Use of different technical support 1. Analyse sets for LL vessels in high seas (this activity is similar to scope of activity covered by observers) - Analysing of MCS activities on boarding, transshipment, unloading and bunkering.	a) Discuss in the regional level to have a standard Terms of Reference-TOR for technical support for EM b) Specify in TOR and conditions/agreement with the technicians to support EM work. c) Develop SOP for Low risks (20% of total sets) medium risks (50% total sets) high risks (80% total sets) d) Support WCPFC drafts on EM CMMS and later integrate into our national legislations (regulations). e) Add to the scope of EM Policy/on coverage of boarding, transshipment, unloading and bunkering activities and later on EM regulations. f) Utilising Data collected from EM analysts by regulating it to be admissible in court as evidence.
Integrity of EM systems - To include into a national legislations	a) Develop protocols (SOPs) to ensure the integrity of the EM systems

4. Outline skeleton Framework of the Policy

Going through the outline for the EM Policy outline that was put together by Allan Aba. There were track changes do to the document.

5. Closing Remarks

The Deputy Director Offshore division Mr. Francis Tofuakalo express his gratitude for the accomplishment of the first internal consultation that was held over the course of 3 days. He further expresses his gratitude to Mr Derrick Tagosia for initiating the policy development, the policy team for supporting its development and other section heads and senior staff from within the Offshore Division for their invaluable contributions.

DDO reiterated that EM Policy development was part of the Corporate plan 2020-2023 goal 3. Therefore, the outcomes from discussions and recommendations highlighted during the consultations is of great importance to the EM Policy.

The working committee must commit themselves to ensure that reports and meeting minutes were produce for the development of the EM Policy.

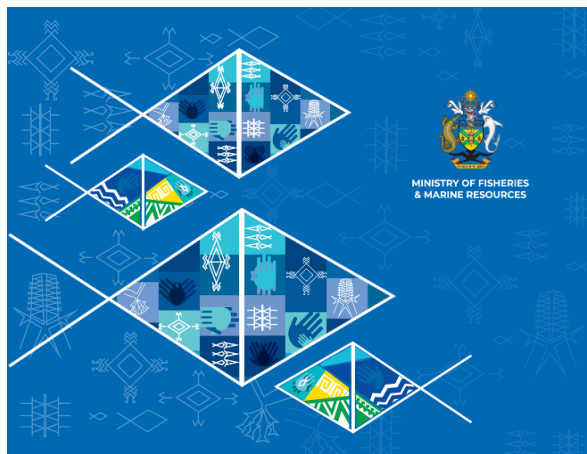
Annex 1- Consultation program

SI National EM Policy Consultation Workshops

Date	Time	Agenda	Responsible	Notes
T U E S D A Y 11 th	9:00	Opening remarks	Executive management	
	9:10	House matters	SFO-eRM	
	9:15	Workshop Overview/Schedule	CFO-eRM	
	9:20	Setting the scene	CFO-eRM/Policy Team	
	10:00	EM Policy in the region – FFA Regional EM Policy Adopted.	Policy Team	
	10:30	Morning Tea	Catering	
	10:45	How do we address the FFA regional policy at the national level?	Policy Team	
	12:00	Lunch		
Day 2				
	9:00	EM national perspective presentation	Derrick	
W E D	9:30-12.30	Group activities – Gap analysis Matrix	Policy Team	
	10:00	Morning Tea	Catering	

N E S D A Y 12 th		Group discussion cont.	EM/Policy Team	
	11:00	Group discussion cont	EM/Policy Team	
	11:30	Group Presentation cont	EM/Policy Team	
	12:00	Lunch	Catering	
Day 3				
T H U R S D A Y 13 th	9:00	Financial Considerations, approach to implementation of EM and review	EM/ Policy Team	
	9:30	SI National EM Program Cost Recovery Model	Lily Wheatley (FFA)	
	10:30	Morning Tea	Caterer	
	10:30	Review workshop outcomes	Policy Team and Jan Oli Pitu	
	11:00	Way forward	CFO-eRM	
	11:30	Workshop closing	DDO	
	12:30	Lunch	Caterer	

Annex 2- Solomon Islands National EM LL Policy Presentation



- Commission's requirement for human Observer Coverage on Longliners is 5% minimum
- Case 1: 80 LL Vessels, each vessel makes 4 trips, total trips per year is $80 \times 4 = 320$, 5% of 320 trips is $320 \times 0.05 = 16$ Trips. 16/320 Trips are to be covered by human observer onboard, meaning, 304 trips are not monitored by any human observers, and there is a high chance for IUU activities on these trips.
 - So EM Complement human observer coverage on LL Fishing Vessels;
 - Verifies and validates fishing activities, catches (discards, target species, species of special interests, bycatches etc.)
 - Monitor possible IUU activities
 - Monitor fish handling and fishing operations..



Trials;

- 2014 – Installations of 4 LL Vessels, each with 2 trips each, 8 trips were analysed, and a report was published. Check SPC website for this report.
- 2017-2018 – Further Trials with the installations of 8 LL Vessels with EM systems, more than 30 trips were analysed, a case study on this was carried out by Prof Chris Brown and was presented to MFMR
- EM is proven to be the new way and technology to monitor LL Vessels, especially to complement human observer coverage on LL fishing vessels.

Implementation so far;

- 2021;
 - Installations of 9 LL Vessels with EM systems
 - Recruitment of 5 EM Analysts
 - EM Cost Recovery model
 - EM National Policy Consultations ongoing



Further Implementations;

- Legal & Policy Framework
 - EM 5 Years Implementation Plan – 2022-2026
 - Launch National EM Policy
 - EM Regulations/Licence condition
- Installations plans;
 - 100% coverage by 2025?
 - Selection of vessels will be based on these conditions;
 - Small and Not suitable for human observer.
 - Has an IUU history
- EM Data
 - Setup backup storage at ICTS data center
 - Recruitment of more EM Analysts



Further Implementations;

- Capacity building
 - Data modeling trainings/attachments at SPC/FFA
 - EM data e-Debriefers trainings
 - Onsite Technician support trainings – Industries
 - Technical trainings/attachments with Service provider
 - Systems alarms/alerts
- Data sharing agreements/arrangements with other regional members for a regional data/analysis center
 - Fiji
 - Vanuatu
- In-house EM Information Management System - EIMS
 - SPC Dorado
 - FIMS EM Module
 - Satlink



Challenges;

- Technical
 - System standards
 - System ownership
 - Data ownership
 - Analysis rate – Industry to pay for partial/full analysis
 - Coverage rate – 100%?
 - Regional Cooperation
 - Multi zones trips
 - Data sharing agreements
- Legal framework
 - Annual EM MOU
 - Policy statement
- Sustainability
 - Financial
 - EM Program – 24/7 Monitor of LL Vessels complementing Observer monitoring

Annex 3- EM Policy Skeleton

DRAFT

Annex 4- Participants Attendance



MFMR National EM Policy Consultations 11th – 13th October 2022 Heritage Park Hotel

Day 1 Attendance- 11th-Oct-2022

No.	Name	Signature
1	HAROLD VILIA	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Alan Alu	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Sam Pitu	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Sophia Ntatu	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Frances Pityurika	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	Chrisanto Dackalia	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Clifford Hwosasi	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	Derrick Tagois	<i>[Signature]</i>

1

9	Edward Haniwala	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	FRANCE ROYAHACO	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	ELINA LIA	<i>[Signature]</i>
12	Sandra Mphahlele	<i>[Signature]</i>
13	Brian Katana John	<i>[Signature]</i>
14	Rita Taro	<i>[Signature]</i>
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		

2



MFMR National EM Policy Consultations 11th – 13th October 2022 Heritage Park Hotel

Day 2 Attendance- 12th-Oct-2022

No.	Name	Signature
1	FRANCIS TOFUPALU	
2	HAROLD VILIA	
3	JAN PITU	
4	David Fatai	
5	Sophia Nata	
6	Francis Pituvaka	
7	ALVIN KIUPUA MAUI	
8	SIMON HOUMA	

9	CHRISTIANE DACKALIA	
10	PHILIP KUMU	
11	CLIFFORD HORDIASI	
12	RITA TARO	
13	ALAN ALBA	
14	SAMSON MOKESULA	
15	SELINA LIPA	
16	Brian Lavanga John	
17	Derrick Tagoria	
18		
19		



MFMR National EM Policy Consultations 11th – 13th October 2022 Heritage Park Hotel
Day 3 Attendance- 13th-Oct-2022

No.	Name	Signature
1	Derrick Tagosia	[Signature]
2	Franka Tafuafoa	[Signature]
3	Sophia Natu	[Signature]
4	Jan Pitu	[Signature]
5	Charlynn Golen	[Signature]
6	Samson M. [unclear]	[Signature]
7	Alan [unclear]	[Signature]
8	David Folas	[Signature]

1

9	Philip Koroiti	[Signature]
10	Alvin Kufua Maui	[Signature]
11	Clifford Horoasi	[Signature]
12	Chrisanto Deakalia	[Signature]
13	SIMON Houni	[Signature]
14	Brian Lavana John	[Signature]
15	Selma Lipa	[Signature]
16	Rita Taro	[Signature]
17	WARRA VILIA	[Signature]
18		
19		

2

**Electronic Monitoring Consultation
Industry Consultation Reporting**



Mendana

Date: 8 to 10 November 2022

DAY 1 of the EM Policy Consultation

Introduction.

The first day of the consultation was on 9th November 2022. Chief of the Electronic Monitoring Section was the chair of the workshop. During the first day of consultation, an opening and welcome remarks was shared by the acting deputy director, Jan Oli Pitu of the offshore division who welcomes all the participants and thank them for attending the workshop and urge them to share their experiences and expertise to progress the propose Solomon Islands National EM Policy. The Chief Offshore Manager emphasize, despite the challenges that delays the progress of the EM Policy in the past, the EM Section under the leadership of Derrick Togasia still manage to progress the work. She finally concluded by pointing out; with the current team will progress the EM Policy document.

Chair asked, the Chief Fisheries Policy Officer to present the draft EM policy and go through the policy content with key policy framework.

After the EM draft presentation the participants break into three groups to work on the seven policy areas with the implementing strategies.

The outcome of the group activities for day 1.

Group 1: identify, organize and rearrange the action points under each key areas.

Policy Area 1. National EM Data	<p style="text-align: center;">Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with other members of FFA to advocate strongly to obtain the approve EM standards at the commission• MFMR EM section to work with MFMR legal counsel and AG to develop an EM regulation that provides for the specified EM-system standards.• EM office to work with MFMR legal counsel and AG to develop a regulation to capture the integrity of the EM system and standards. <p>Coverage and Analysis rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a regulation for coverage and analysis rates• Analyse sets for LL vessels in Solomon waters and areas beyond and regulate data collected from the EM systems.• Develop data analysis SOP for low risk IUU fishing Longline fishing vessels (20% of total sets), medium risk (50% total sets), IUU high risk (80% total risk)
---------------------------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the TOR that specify the conditions and agreements with the technicians to support EM work. • Analyse the MCS activities and data collection during inspection and boarding, transshipment, unloading, bunkering and regulate the data and information to be used in court. • Analyst should only view footage and analyse only fishing activities. <p>Data Security and Confidentiality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an MOU with the fishing companies to allow full access to view footage data and catch data • Develop restrictions for officers, public and anyone to access the EM office building except the EM analysts. • Work with SIG ICTS to have a storage drive in the SIG server <p>Access and Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impose fees for information sharing to third party. • Develop an agreement to guide type of EM data to be shared with the regional partners • Develop regulation for access and sharing of EM data with third party. <p>Ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an agreement with operators to reflect data ownership
Group 2 Rearrange and organize the actions points according to each thematic area.	
Policy Area 2: Governance and National Regulatory Mechanism	<p>Develop national legislation for EM to reflect the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) EM installations b) tampering of the EM system on board the long line fishing vessel c) Prescribe EM personal as authorize officers. d) Use and dissemination of EM data

	<p>e) regulation to retrieve the system if the vessels is not license in Solomon Islands the following year.</p> <p>f) Prescribe power for EM Analyst to Board fishing vessels to install and Remove EM machines etc.</p> <p>g) Longline fishing vessels that license to access and fish in Solomon Islands waters shall install EM systems and to return systems if they are not renewing their fishing license with Solomon Islands government through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.</p> <p>SOPS</p> <p>a) Develop SOPs for the request and use of EM data internally and externally.</p> <p>Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the EM governance is consistent with the broader SIG policies and relevant international and regional EM standards or policies <p>Agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with other FFA member countries/non-FFA member countries and fishing vessel operators to develop a data sharing agreement.
Group 3 Propose new additional areas under the Policy area 3	
Policy Area 3: Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunity for EM analyst attachment at i.e. SPC or any relevant organisation or any member country that deals with EM related activity. • Develop an opportunity for member countries/locals to conduct intern training with EM analysist team. • Involve EM data analysist on MCS related training (MCS Cert IV) i.e. for case filing evidence purposes and to be well inform on the chain of command.

Day 2 of the EM Policy Consultation

Opening remarks by Director MFMR:

The Director to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources was the key personal that provides the opening remarks by thanking the participants for their commitment to attend the workshop.

He stated that EM is an additional management tool to the existing tools that are currently use to monitor and control the tuna fisheries. He went on to mention the importance of the tool as a tool that can be used to collect accurate data, provide safety crews, and provide footages of the fishing activities. Finally, he stress that the workshop is important to guide the implementation of the EM programme.

Summary of points based on the Chair Presentation – CFO EM Section

Why electronic monitoring?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• commission's requirement for human observer coverage on LL is 5% minimum• Response to EU yellow card as monitoring of fishing activities is very important in the compliance level of Solomon Islands and this as additional MCS tool.• Address data gap in the LL industries through data verification purposes
What has been done so far?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Installation of EM systems on-board LL vessels○ EM analysts has been recruited○ EM data has been analysed○ EM office has been set up
EM benefits to industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Monitoring fishing activities and verify catches○ Crew safety○ Fishing handling○ Vessel safety○ Monitor fish theft○ Adds value to catch-verify IUU free catch○ Verify crews' claims
Why EM is introduce	<p>To address the following challenges;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical- system standards, system ownership, data ownership, analysis rate, coverage rate, regional cooperation, multi-zone trips, data sharing agreements• Legal framework- annual EM MOU, Policy statement• Sustainability- financial, EM program

David Fatai, the Chief of Fisheries for International Relation under the Policy Planning Section led the group discussion and reemphasize that EM system is an important tool for the management of our tuna fisheries. He went on to mention the following points below;

- We want a policy that is fair for the industries and government
- Well listen to the stories of the industries through the implementation of the EM program

The participants break into 2 groups and discussed four questions that summarise in the matrix tables.

Group 1	Questions with Action Points
	<p>1. <i>Are there any concerns on how the MFMR is implementing the EM program?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry have limited knowledge of the EM operation so they only assist less in the installation of the EM program • They provide assist only when required by MFMR and in full support of the program with the benefits of EM. • Okay with the implementation of the EM program • Captains complain on the implementation of the program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More usage of many systems on-board in duplicate manner • Need clear explanation of why this data needed to be relayed to captains
	<p>2. <i>With your experience what were some of the challenges your company has faced with this program?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage of duplicate system recording the same required information on board the vessel e.g Taiwan system (need clear explanation on what this system does will need support of MFMR and industries) • No concern at all. But having to assist the installation system.
	<p>3. <i>How can MFMR improve the EM program?</i></p> <p>4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more analysts on board to analyse the EM data • Camera cleansing need to clean camera • Timeline of installation of EM systems due to schedule of ship • Constant budget to support EM program (allowance of installation, fuel) • Insurance for installation • Provide incentives to industries either free days as an example • If possible can we have EM only and ER not or else can the EM do the ER duties (retrieve ER data)
	<p>5. <i>How can the industry support MFMR to implement the EM program?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistic support for installation and implementation of the program • Operation support in terms of providing the vessels and information needed by MFMR

	Questions with Action Points
	<p>1. <i>Are there any concerns on how MFMR is implementing of the EM system?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appreciate MFMR service on monitoring the EM system

Group 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compliments the work EM is doing in substitution for having observers onboard. (sometimes relying on human information is not trustworthy especially with human error and to verify activities onboard than having actual footage of the activities. - Backwards implementation of the EM policy (develop the policy from experience and challenges learnt along the way) makes the more realistic actions to be included - Machine sometimes malfunction and crews/captain might take the blame for it. - With the 30% coverage now plan to be in place on all LL, needs more boats to be install with EM camera's onboard to meet the 30% coverage on time. - Assist in evidence for proof for both MFMR and industry when any issues or concerns arises. - Many industry owners did not really aware on the benefits of the EM data to them (requesting data analysis on any trips or sets they might interest on. - Industry can request to have camera install on any area onboard they're interested to have data from. - With the support from NGOs it helps to drive the implementation of the EM but our concern is for the sustainability of the EM system when it comes to MFMR to maintain the operation of the number of vessels with EM. (Shortage of funds)
	<p>2. With your experience what were some of the challenges your company has faced with the program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently company face less challenges since funds are coming from NGOs but with MFMR and industry to pick up the cost, this could be a challenge on the long-term sustainability of the EM system. - Affects crews and captain privacy with camera onboard (complains raise at first). However, with company's explanation they're now convinced and appreciate the importance of having camera's onboard.
	<p>3. How can MFMR improve the EM program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create incentive for the best fishing vessel that install EM and comply with EM standard (encourage other fishing vessel to join the EM program) - Annual license only for 1 year period (could increase cost for MFMR & company when vessels comes in for only few months or 1 year and left
	<p>4. How can the industry support MFMR to implement the EM program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company ready to provide full support to the implementation of the EM program for a successful outcome for both MFMR and company (Win Win situation).

Afternoon Session and Discussions:

- Presentation of the group activities with further inputs from MFMR staffs
- To develop information papers (brochure) to explain the importance of EM program in English and general language for understanding of the captains and crews.
- Work with companies'/fishing industries and fishing vessel to clarify the importance of EM program.
- Add to the policy area for incentives to be given to vessels that are interested to install the EM systems.
- Consider to add insurance for the systems in one of the policy areas with warranty period
- Add industries responsibilities under any of the policy areas

Way forward

- There is a draft from the first consultation workshop. Will review the draft after we completed this workshop
- Committee to decide on the next stakeholders workshop
- A validation workshop will be on the draft policy
- Committee will revisit the propose draft before validation workshop
- The draft EM Policy will be review prior to circulation to the industries
- After industries comments, draft to be finalised with management
- The EM committee will circulate the draft EM policy to PS for his inputs
- The draft EM Policy will also be send to FFA-Anna, SPC-Malo, PNA-EM coordinator for their inputs and comments.
- A propose meeting to be held on the 18th Nov, 2022 for committee's meeting to review the draft
- Consideration is taken for SIMA to be inform about the propose EM Policy development as vessel crews are govern under their legislations
- The draft Policy will be circulate to the EM committee for their inputs.

BACK TO OFFICE REPORT

1. Name of Traveller/Team Leader: Derrick Tagosia
2. Department/Section: eRM, Offshore
3. Location of travel: Noro, Western Province
4. Dates of travel: 23 October to 4th November 2023.
5. Names of people travelling: *Can submit an annex if this is a very long list*

Name	Department	Dates on trip
Derrick Tagosia	eRM	23 Oct – 4 Nov 2023
Clifford Horoiyasi	eRM	23 Oct – 4 th Nov 2023

6. Short Objectives/Reason for the trip: *(Keep this section short as will already be included in your trip terms of reference)*

7. Purpose of Training.

To train the Noro Compliance Officers and the National Fisheries Development Limited (NFD) Officers on Electronic Reporting (ER) and Electronic Monitoring (EM) Systems so that they can be able to provide Onsite Technical Support to the Fishing Vessels Captain when unloading and Transshipping in Noro port.

- a. Objectives

- a. To Train Noro Compliance Officers and NFD Officers in Noro office on the Electronic Reporting (ER) iFIMS App so that they can be able to provide Onsite Technical Support to Fishing Vessels Captains when they are unloading and Transshipping at Noro port.
 - b. To Train Noro Compliance Officers and NFD Officers on the Electronic Monitoring (EM) system so that they can be able to provide basic Onsite Technical Support to our Vessels installing system that are unloading in Noro port.
 - b. Target Officers – iFIMS Officers, Noro Compliance Officers and other NFD Officers working on LL Documentation and Reporting processes.

- c. Expected outcomes/results

- a. Noro Compliance Officers and NFD Officers should be able to provide Onsite Technical Support to the Fishing Vessels captains on the E-Reporting iFIMS App, especially the following on the E-Reporting iFIMS App;
 - i. Creating a new Fishing Trip
 - ii. Checking for data inconsistencies
 - iii. Entering catch data
 - iv. Closing a Trip
 - v. Sending (elodging) Data via WIFI connections
 - b. Noro Compliance Officers and NFD Officers should be able to provide onsite Technical Support on the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Systems when vessels return to Noro port, the support are as follows;
 - i. Check for EM systems errors or faults
 - ii. Trace cable breakages
 - iii. Check for hardware failure and provide report to the eRM team.
 - iv. Remove and Replace EM Hard Disk Drives (HDD)
 - v. Conduct basic EM system troubleshooting steps

DOMESTIC FIELD TRIP REPORT

8. List the names of villages/communities visited: Noro Port.
9. List of meetings held and people met: *Participants list submitted*
10. Outcome of the trip:
- a. Noro Compliance Officers and NFD Officers should be able to provide Onsite Technical Support to the Fishing Vessels captains on the E-Reporting iFIMS App, especially the following on the E-Reporting iFIMS App;
 - i. Creating a new Fishing Trip
 - ii. Checking for data inconsistencies
 - iii. Entering catch data
 - iv. Closing a Trip
 - v. Sending (elodging) Data via WIFI connections
 - b. Noro Compliance Officers and NFD Officers should be able to provide onsite Technical Support on the Electronic Monitoring (EM) Systems when vessels return to Noro port, the support are as follows;
 - i. Check for EM systems errors or faults
 - ii. Trace cable breakages

11. Follow up activities required:

Follow up activity	Person/team responsible	Date due
Will conduct similar trainings for MCS Officers and LL Industries in Honiara	ERM Team	November 2023

12. Any other comments/issues:

Exceptions should be given to the provinces, especially in regards to payments after service provided, most or all of these accommodations and restaurants does not have cash flow to provide services first before payment, they depend entirely on payment to provide services, they even mentioned that they had to borrow some money to pay for foods and services first.

13. Acquittal and supporting documents attached: *For example, additional receipts for non-DSA expenses, boarding passes, certificate of completion of the course, etc.*

See receipts attached.

Signature of traveller:



Name of traveller: DERRICK TAGOSIA



MFMR Records of Meeting

Name of Meeting	SI National LL EM Policy 2 nd Internal Meeting
Date Of Meeting	9 th March 2022
Time of Meeting	11am
Venue of Meeting	MFMR Main Conference Room
Chair of Meeting	Derrick Tagosia
Secretary of Meeting	Jan Oli-Pitu

Meeting Attendance

Name	Position
Derrick Tagosia	CFO/eRM
Brian John	SFO/Licensing
Chrisanto Daokalia	SFO/Stats & Info
Sophie Natu	PFO/Policy
Lily Wheatley	Economist
Jan Oli-Pitu	CFO/OFD

Apologies

Name	Position
Harold Vilia	CFO/Observers
Francis Tofuakalo	DDO
Allan Abba	CFO/Policy
David Fatai	CFO/Policy

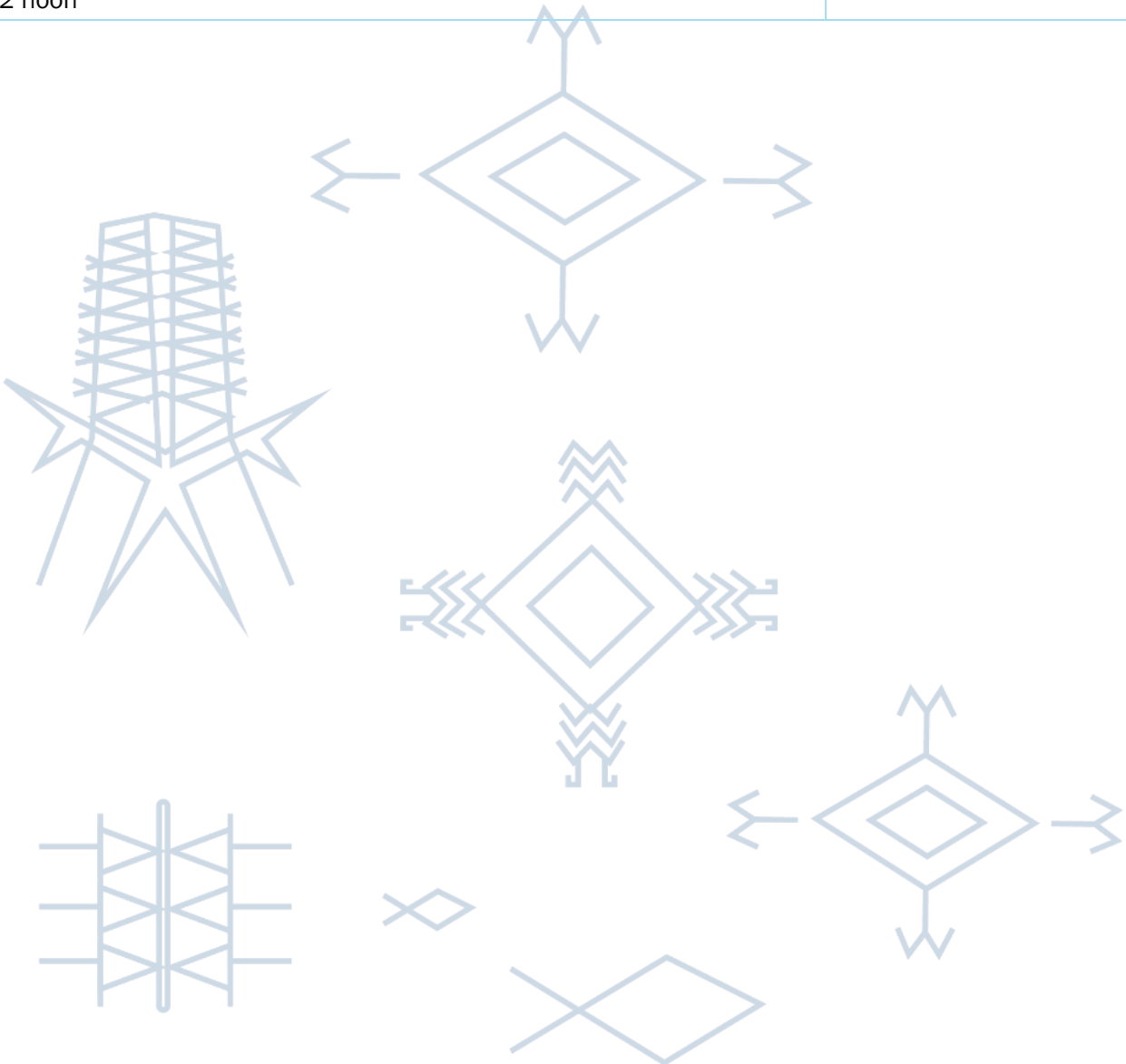
Meeting Discussions	Actions
Opening Prayer: Jan Oli-Pitu	
Welcome Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Welcome attendees to the meetingThis will be the 2nd internal meeting as a start for this year 2022 for this work	Derrick Tagosia

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First internal meeting has been held last year to form this core team to progress this work 	
Actions from first meeting:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair went through the previous meeting minutes briefly on the actions and notes taken to progress this work This identified core team will be working on the National Longline EM policy 	<p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose changes to the core team members due to changes of responsibilities to seek confirmation from all previously identified core members
<p>Budget Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible funder for this work (WCPFC JTF) has approved the proposal and prepare to deposit funds through MFMR identified account Other identified support is from Development Budget (DB) and MSSIF 	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose for launching of the EM Policy Doc to be supported by DB and or PROPER
<p>Propose change of members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team propose change of members due to changes of responsibilities (Lily will be replaced by Sophia Natu) Request to other core members should they need to have someone from their team to replace them 	<p>Action:</p> <p>Chair to advise team of the new replacements for Lily and other EM cores members</p>
<p>Discussions on the current workshop Agenda:</p> <p>Agenda 1: Consultations (4)</p> <p>There will be 4 consultations done on this work 1st consultation (internal) being for the development of the draft policy by MFMR core team and management, the 2nd consultation (external) will be to get inputs from stakeholders, the 3rd consultation (internal) is to review the draft policy containing inputs from stakeholders and finalize the draft policy and the 4th consultation (external) will be to present the final draft to the stakeholders & industries and finalize launching program with stakeholders/industries;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 internal consultations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st consultation to review all policy documents related to EM Policy to develop on the draft policy (April – May) 3rd consultation to review draft policy with stakeholder/industries comments (July-August) 2 external consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd consultation to consult with industries/stakeholders with the draft to gather their comments (May-June) 4th consultation to finalize workshop with Stakeholders/industries before launching (September – October) 	<p>Action: need Regional & MFMR Policy statements and other related relevant documents for drafting of the policy draft</p>
<p>Final Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the final draft (Nov) would be done by support from FFA, SPC, PNAO, MFMR, MFMR Legal Officer and AG (Nov) 	





Printing/Launching <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printing of final copies for distribution (Dec)	
Next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed 1st week of April when funds will be available	Action: Chair to confirm date of meeting and inform core team
Closing Prayer: Brian John	
Meeting Closed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 noon	





Date: 6th June 2025

- i. Training for MCS Officers in Noro on the FIMS Compliance Module has already been conducted, with further training scheduled for Honiara in June 2025.
- ii. Onsite technical support training for the industry in Noro has been completed, including a technical support trip.

- iii. The final review of the EM policy has been completed and submitted to MFMR executive management for their final review. We propose to launch the policy in July 2025.

In light of this, the Ministry confirms that the remaining activities will be completed in June and July 2025, and an updated implementation report will follow.

Please find attached:

1. Updated progress report
2. Meeting minutes and reports of the completed activities

We are grateful for your continued support and consideration regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr Christain Ramofafia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Christain Ramofafia
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources